GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5362
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
FLIGHTS FOR HAJ PILGRIMS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;ANANTRAO GUDHE;HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Haj passengers carried by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last five years;

(b) the toal earnings from Haj passengers as well as amount spent by the Government on Haj pilgrims as subsidy during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the number of Haj flights operated from various airports in the country during this year and likely to be operated in the next year, airport-wise;

(d) whether the Governmetn have received any representations from certain religious organisations to extend such concession to pilgrims of other religious faiths; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) and (b) : The details regarding number of haj passengers carried on charterd fligths through Air India, the amount received from haj passengers and the subsidy paid by the Government during the last 5 years are as under:-

Year	No. of passengers	Amount received by Government (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount spent pax from haj as subsidy
1997	53766	6451.92	7851.02
1998	63648	7637.36	11078.18
1999	62103	7452.36	9846.22
2000	71924	8630.88	11885.51
2001	71215	8545.80	15840.21

(c) : Details are as under :-

Station	Number of flights
Ahmedabad	21
Bangalore	10
Chennai	07
Delhi	43
Hyderabad	22
Kolkata	15
Calicut	17
Lucknow	34
Mumbai	49
Srinagar	30

The number of flights likely to be operated in next year would depend on the total number of passangers.

(d) and (e) : At present, there is no proposal to subsidise such air travel for any other pilgrim groups.